

APPENDIX E: Subjects Contributing to Interpretive Themes

From a workshop on 11 April 2003:

Supporting Topic: Natural History and Diversity

Supporting Interpretive Theme: Between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands, the Trail corridor includes portions of five distinct physiographic regions. Each region, in different ways, has inspired and shaped hundreds of human generations with beauty, abundance, and utility.

Subjects contributing to this theme:

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|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • ecological history | • inspiration | • preservation |
| • engineering | • landscape | • recreation |
| • five distinct regions (geomorphology) | • natural features & processes | • regional diversity |
| • flora and fauna | • natural history & diversity | • watershed |
| • geography | • pastoral landscape / countryside | • wildlife |
| • geology | • planned city | |

Supporting Topic: Boundary, Corridor and Crossroads

Supporting Interpretive Theme: As a boundary between north and south and an east to west route into the North American interior, the Potomac River has been a crossroads of opportunity, diversity, and conflict.

Subjects contributing to this theme:

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| • agriculture | • migration | • urbanism/suburbanization/enclavement/ "drainage is destiny" |
| • French and Indian War | • natural resources led to opportunity | • Westward Expansion/the Potomac River as an east-west corridor |
| • growth of the District | • trade | |
| • immigration | • transportation | |
| • indigenous people | | |
| • industrial development | | |

Supporting Topic: Nation-Building / Nurturing A Nation

Supporting Interpretive Theme: Routes connecting the Potomac River with the Forks of the Ohio provided an essential context for the development of the United States Republic.

Elements of this theme:

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| • Chesapeake tobacco society | • National Road Heritage Corridor, an example of internal improvements funded and supported by federal government | • regional boundaries |
| • Civil War | • Potomac River as the dividing line between the North and South | • religious diversity |
| • Clean Water Act | • preservation | • the Federal City |
| • conflict | | • the institution of slavery |
| • George Washington | | • urban renewal |
| • government institutions | | • War of 1812 |
| • industry | | |
| • institutions and principles | | |
| • Mount Vernon Compact | | |